



# Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) Expansion – Governor’s Crime Commission Grant

Presented by Health and Human Services

January 2020



# START is:

- A trauma-informed promising practice serving families with young children who have co-occurring substance use disorder and child maltreatment
- A peer support model
- Intervention for both moms and dads
- An integrated program that engages and partners with the behavioral health and court systems but is initiated and driven by Child Protective Services.
- Focused on early crisis intervention and based on multiple theories that align with North Carolina policy expectations and contribute to a trauma responsive culture



# Overview of Grant

## Grant Basics

- Two year grant, but cycle began 4/1/19
- Awarded by Department of Public Safety/ Governor's Crime Commission
- Housed within Health and Human Services
- Total Award: ***\$1,385,760***

## Goals

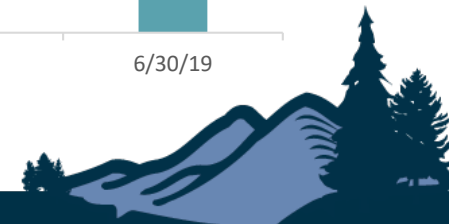
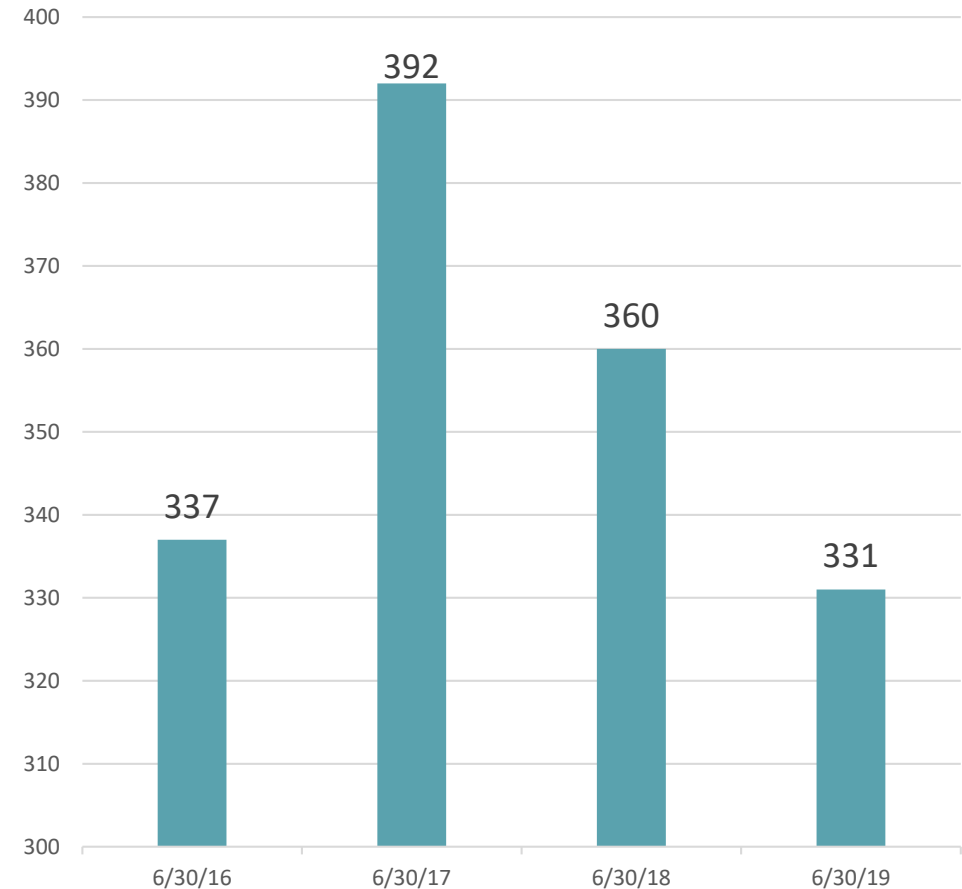
- Double capacity to serve families with co-occurring substance use disorder and child maltreatment through the START model
- Continue to build a trauma responsive culture within Buncombe County Child Protective Services
- Continue to reduce the number of children entering foster care
- When children do enter foster care, increase timely reunification rates



In 2017, the foster care population in Buncombe County was growing at an alarming rate and parental substance use played a role in 60 to 70% of custodies. Parents were not engaging in services and were feeling hopeless after losing custody of their children.

Since implementation of one START team in July 2017 and Trauma Responsive Culture strategies in July 2018, the foster care population has declined.

Total Children in Custody by Year (inc 18-21 YO)



# Grant Activities

- Create and implement a second START team in Buncombe County by:
  - Hiring and training staff
  - Amending contract with Family Preservation Services
- Expand START eligible cases to include cases moving directly from investigations to foster care
- Create case assignment process to account for two teams
- Continue to evaluate and contribute to evidence base of START model to increase opportunities for future IV-E funding
- Work toward becoming a START certified site



# Two-Year Grant Funds Budget

Line Item	Amount	Purpose
Salary and Benefits	\$778,627	Three Investigative and Assessment Social Workers and one Social Work Supervisor
Contract and Professional Services	\$470,048	Service Coordinator, three Family Mentors, 10% Clinical Supervisor, Consultation with Child and Family Futures to become Certified START site
Office Expenses	\$16,000	Office Expenses
Travel and Training	\$108,765	NC Pre-Service Training, Peer Support Conferences, State SUD Training, Client Related Mileage
Telephones	\$12,320	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,385,760</b>	



# Grant Personnel

## Covered by Grant

**Three Family Mentors (Peer Support Specialists):** Person in long term recovery with lived Child Welfare experience. Paired with CPS SW.

100%

**Service Coordinator:** Provides trauma informed comprehensive clinical assessment for START eligible clients, links to recommended services and follows client to ensure clinical needs are met.

100%

**Three CPS Social Workers:** Assess ongoing risk and safety of children within families who meet START eligibility criteria

100%

**Social Work Supervisor:** Supervise Social Worker and Family Mentor dyads in their day to day work, ensuring compliance with State policy and law

100%

**10% of a Clinical Supervisor:** Provides clinical supervision for Family Mentors including Medicaid Claiming

100%



# START in Buncombe County – As of 12/31/19

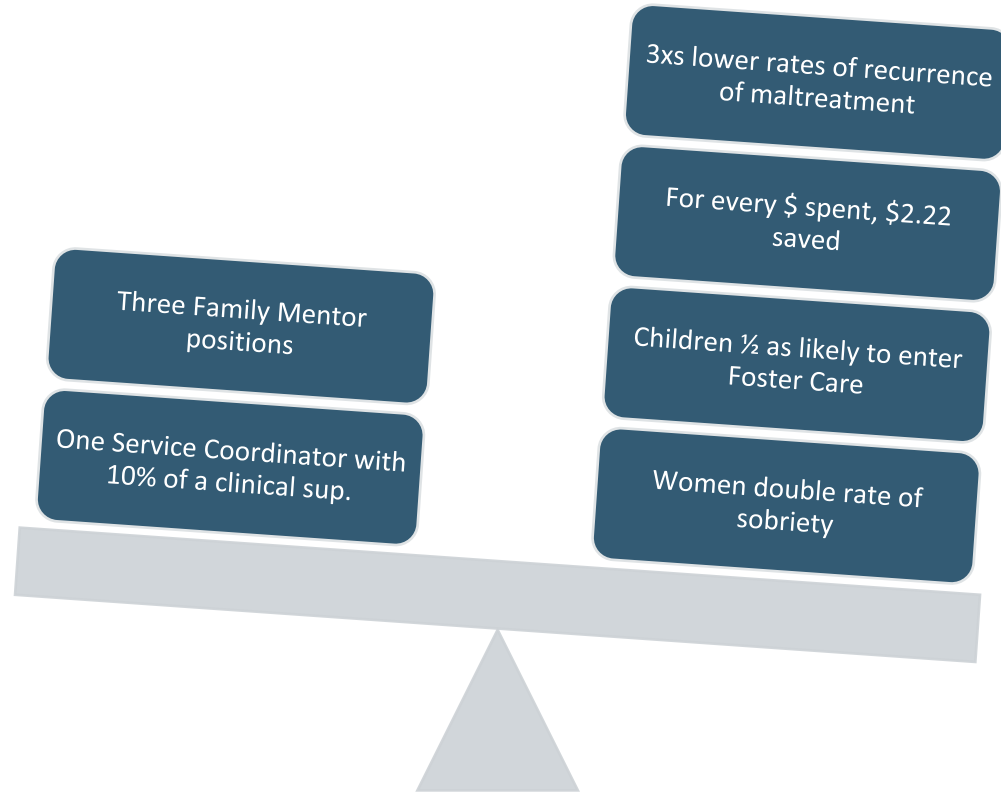
- **65** Families Served/ Serving
- Average time from date of intake report to the START Initial Meeting was **8.9 days**
- Average time from accepting START to CCA: **1.7 days**
- Average time from CCA to 4th SUD Tx appointment: **12.9 Days**
- **17%** of START Families received Inpatient Tx
- **42%** START Families had Prenatal Substance Exposure (PSE)
- **83.3%** of cases closed with children safely maintained or returned to their home by case closure with parent(s) having achieved case goals and in active recovery.
- **82%** of START mothers had cases closed, having achieved sobriety
- **65%** of START fathers who had an SUD achieved sobriety by case closure





## Cost of START

## Gains from START



### Sustainability Plan:

Prevention leads to cost savings for placement.

START is a Promising Practice on the California Clearinghouse of Evidence Based Practices. It has been submitted as an eligible service for IV-E Reimbursement under the Families First Prevention Law.

Fewer children in foster care require fewer social workers, can reinvest saved dollars into sustainability of START team.

\*\*Reference: Huebner, et al., 2012, 2015b, 2017



# Requests

- Approve the receipt of the GCC/ VOCA grant in the amount up to \$1,385,760
- Approve the establishment of 4 FTE grant funded positions to begin as soon as possible through April 2021.
- Additional labor will be secured via contract.

